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Urrin [Iuḃaꞃ Aḃainn].—*Urrin*, a river in the barony of Scarawalsh, in the Co. Wexford. The name is derived from ıuḃaꞃ (the Yew). and aḃaınn (river). The town of Newry derives its name from a large yew tree, which stood at the head of the strand there in the time of St. Patrick, and was called Iuḃaꞃ ċınn Ꞇꞃaᵹa, i. e. the Yew at the head of the strand. At a later time it was simply called An Iuḃaꞃ (the Yew), and in anglicizing it the n of the article became the primary letter of the name—thus, *N-Ewry*, and it has been called by several writers *The Newry*. The word ıuḃaꞃ (a Yew tree), has been derived by an old glossographer from eó (*semper*), and baꞃꞃ (a top), signifying the evergreen top. The former word eó has been also used to denote the Yew tree, and hence Maᵹ̇-eó (the Plain of the Yews), from which the county of Mayo has got its name.

XLIX.—On an Ancient Cup and Brooches, found near Ardagh, in the County of Limerick. By the Right Hon. the Earl of Dunraven.

[Abstract.]

[Read February 22, 1869.]

The Earl of Dunraven read a paper on a very ancient and remarkable cup, and several brooches, discovered in September, 1868, in a rath close to the village of Ardagh, in the county of Limerick. They were found by a man digging potatoes within the rath. The cup is seven inches in height, and nine and a half inches in diameter; it is composed of an alloy of silver, and ornamented with gold work of interlaced and various other designs of the highest period of Celtic art, and also with enamels of beautiful character and finish. Round the bowl was an inscription, composed of the names of the twelve Apostles. The form of the letters is that found only in the earliest Irish MSS.—for example, the Book of Durrow, *sixth century*, the Book of Kells, the Book of Dimma, the Durham Book, &c. &c., all prior to the 9th century. There can be little doubt that this cup was a chalice. Two-handled chalices were in use before the 11th or 12th century. They were of two kinds—those which were used for the Communion of the minor clergy and the laity, and those which were only employed for ornament, being hung between the pillars of churches or before the altar. Several examples of both kinds are mentioned in the paper. With respect to the age of this precious relic of early Irish art, judging by the inscription, it would appear to be prior to the 9th century; but the workmanship is of the highest period of that art, which, according to Dr. Petrie, culminated about the 11th century. The 10th century may, therefore, be taken as the probable period in which this most beautiful cup was executed.

Within the chalice were found a small cup, a chalice of bronze, and four brooches. The cup is five and a half inches in diameter, and is quite plain. The brooches or fibulæ are composed of an alloy of silver. One of them is of remarkable size, being thirteen and a half inches in length, and six inches in breadth. The front is gilt, and covered with various interlaced patterns, and is one of the finest examples of its class remaining in Ireland.

L.—On a Modification of Regnault's Condensing Hygrometer, with Observations on the Psychrometer. By M. Donovan, M. R. I. A., Member of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

[Read April 12, 1869.]

The dulness produced on the outside of a glass vessel by pouring water into it much colder than itself has given origin to a number of instruments intended to present that result with facility and precision, as a means of ascertaining the quantity of aqueous vapour contained, at any particular moment, in a certain volume of air—of determining the temperature at which it would begin to precipitate, and of discovering what quantity of water the atmosphere could still hold in addition to that which it already contains.

Amongst these, Daniell's Hygrometer held a conspicuous place: it was, however, far from being a satisfactory instrument. Its imperfections have been fully stated by Regnault. ("Annales de Chimie," xv., p. 194).

Observing these imperfections, M. Regnault contrived a Hygrometer on the principle of condensation, which he found to act satisfactorily. The following is his account of it:—An exceedingly thin and highly polished hollow silver cylinder, the diameter of which is 0·787 inch, and its length 1·77 inch, is accurately fitted, by grinding, to a glass tube, open at both ends. The upper end of this tube is closed with a cork, which is traversed through its axis by the stem of a very sensible and correct Thermometer. The bulb, or rather the cylindrical reservoir, of the Thermometer occupies the axis of the silver cylinder, or thimble as Regnault calls it. A very slender air tube of glass, open at both ends, passes through another hole in the same cork, and descends nearly to the bottom of the thimble. The upper part of the containing glass tube has a small lateral tubulature, which communicates, by a slender leaden tube, with a distant aspirator filled with water. When the instrument is to be used, ether is poured into the thimble until it rise a little way above the bulb of the Thermometer. The water of the aspirator is then allowed to flow: air passes through the air tube, and issues out of its lower end through the ether, which is thus vaporized, and produces cold. This cooling process is to be cautiously continued until the temperature be found at which a faint cloudiness can be maintained on the silver thimble by the condensation of atmospheric moisture.